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ADMISSION TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

To the Editor of the "School Review":

SIR: On p. 485 of the issue of the *School Review* for September, 1912, appears a table giving the requirements for admission to the departments of literature, science, and the arts in twenty-five colleges and universities in the United States. I notice that opposite the name of Columbia you give as the usual mode of admission, "certificate." By referring to our catalogues you will find this to be erroneous.

FRANK D. FACKENTHAL, *Secretary*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

September 20

To the Editor of the "School Review":

SIR: The criticism has been made by one of the administrative officers of Columbia University that in the brief article entitled "Entrance Requirements in Twenty-five Colleges and Universities" which appeared in the September issue of the *School Review* the usual mode of admission to Columbia is erroneously given as by certificate. The writer of that article is glad to make due apologies if the statement is, as alleged, incorrect. Necessity for brevity forced him to speak somewhat dogmatically, and the desire to make only a dual classification of the college requirements led him to adopt as the distinguishing terms "admission by certificate" and "admission by examination." No doubt, in the case of Columbia a juster characterization would be: admission by a modified examination plan; or, admission by a modified use of the certificate plan.

The writer was led to classify Columbia as he did because of the interpretations made by Professor James R. Angell in his article in the *School Review* for March, 1912 (p. 145). In that article Mr. Angell characterizes the mode of admission to Columbia University as "a denaturalized examination system." "Under this system," he says, "a candidate goes through the motions of an examination, but after he has completed them a special committee or a special officer, considering the results of the examination in conjunction with all the data available from the school and elsewhere, may grant him entrance although he has failed in the examination, or reject him although he has passed . . . [and] the candidate knows in advance that failure in the examination will not necessarily exclude him from the kingdom of collegiate heaven."

The examination at Columbia, according to this interpretation, merely puts into the hands of the administrative officers "a mass of facts bearing on particular cases," but does not make admission depend on an examination.

To the present writer the Columbia plan as described by Mr. Angell employs the *principle* of the certificate system, whether called by that name or not. He leaves the reader, therefore, to classify Columbia as his judgment may decide.

CALVIN O. DAVIS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

October 1